

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Tuesday, **May 10, 2005**.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Michael Caracciolo, Chairman

Leg. Angie Carpenter, Vice•Chairman

Leg. Daniel P. Losquadro

Leg. Cameron Alden

Leg. William J. Lindsay

Leg. Peter O'Leary

Leg. Ricardo Montano

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Legislator David Bishop, Fourteenth District

Mea Knapp, Counsel to the Legislature

Ian Barry, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature

Ilona Julius, Deputy Clerk

Jim Spero, Director of Budget Review

Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director, Budget Review

Marie Ammirati, Aide to Leg. O'Leary

Carl Yellon, Aide to Leg. Kennedy

Doug Sutherland, Aide to Leg. Carpenter

Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Executive

Jeanine Dillon, County Executive's Office

Jacqueline Caputi, Assistant County Attorney

Frank Tassone, Aide to Majority Leader

Linda Burkhardt, Chief of Staff, PO's Office

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 10:04 AM)

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Good morning. Would everyone please rise for a Pledge of Allegiance to be led by Legislator Alden.

(SALUTATION)

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

We would like to have Budget Review in the auditorium. Here we go. Okay. Let me take this opportunity •• Ben, if you wouldn't mind standing again •• that's exactly where I'm going.

MR. ZWIRN:

Oh, you are?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yes. As everyone is well aware, unfortunately there was a very tragic accident last week in the Township of Riverhead where two emergency medical technicians were killed while transporting a heart attack victim to Central Suffolk Hospital. I would ask you that bow your heads in silent prayer and meditation in remembrance of them and their heroic efforts to bring life and keep life, which they succeeded in doing. But unfortunately in doing so, their own lives were taken.

(MOMENT OF SILENCE)

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Thank you.

Good morning, Lance. Lance, if you could for this first segment while we wait for a couple of the other Committee members to join us, go over the recent BRO memorandum to the Legislature that was prepared at my request concerning SCIN forms; and maybe at this time I should •• that was distributed to all Legislators; correct?

MR. REINHEIMER:

If you could hand that out, I'd appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Everyone is settled. Just briefly, Lance, I'd like you to just summarize this report dated May 5th, which is a summary of 2005 filled positions and permanent salary projections. And, Mr. Zwirn, I would like to request that you notify the Budget Office to have a representative here within the next 15 minutes. They know when these committee meetings are scheduled. And I know we indicated at 9:30 we'd be here at ten. And it is ten o'clock, so. Go ahead, Lance.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Okay. Periodically the Budget Review Office monitors the payroll •• actually every payroll and periodically issues a memo at the request of the Finance Committee. Our last payroll projections are based on the payroll of April 24th. We look at the number of people by fund, by org and their current salaries. We make adjustments for the AME step increase, any labor agreements and project their salaries forward. This does not include new hirings or people that are leaving the payroll.

Over the course of the past •• or the quarter, first quarter of 2005, the number of vacant positions has increased from approximately 700 in the General Fund to 739 as of April 24th. This has resulted in a slight increase in our projected surplus appropriations in the General Fund from about \$17 million to almost \$19 million. In addition, the County Executive has advised us

that they have 385 signed positions authorized to be filled that are currently vacant.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Let me just interrupt you there and request some clarification. What does that mean? There are 385 signed SCIN forms.

MR. REINHEIMER:

That means that departments have received authorization to fill vacancies that currently exist in their departments. In the General Fund there is 269 vacant positions that are authorized to be filled. We have requested from the Executive's Budget Office a list of the specific positions to be filled so that we could adjust, you know, our projections to include those vacancies that would be filled within the next year.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Have they responded?

MR. REINHEIMER:

They said they would provide us a list of details, but we haven't received it as of today. And we obviously didn't receive it as of the time of this memo.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Okay. What departments are we speaking of?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I would say across the board. Most departments have positions that are authorized to be filled.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Again, just to clarify the, you know, the statement "authorized to be filled." Does that mean they will be filled?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, that doesn't necessarily mean it will be filled. Also, we have gotten from departments •• Social Services provided us a list of the positions they were authorized to fill. They had 52

positions that they were authorized to fill. That resulted in 21 additional new bodies. What happens is when positions are authorized to be filled ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Hold on a minute. Could we have some quiet on the horseshoe? This is important testimony.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Okay. Out of the 52 positions that were authorized to be filled, a significant number of those included promotions. So, people were promoted up, which created new vacancies. Those vacancies, in order to be filled, would require authorization from the County Executive's Office. So, out of the 52 positions that were authorized to be filled, it resulted in, I think, 21 additional new people.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. So, we have to be careful when we hear terms like "52 authorized to be filled." Actually 21 have been filled. So, the authority is there to hire. But the reality is they haven't been hired yet; in fact, by the end of the calendar year they may not be hired at all.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Well, it involves promotions. The person was promoted within the department.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

So, those are the 21 that already took place.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Right.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

I'm talking about filling the vacancies created by those promotions.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Right. Those would have to be authorized to be filled separately.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Ah. So, the 52 have nothing to do with the 21 that created the 21 subordinate positions or

vacancies.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Right. Those positions are not authorized to be filled until the County Executive allows it.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. Which may never happen.

MR. REINHEIMER:

It's possible.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. That's why we need the Budget Office here to find out what their intent is because we have previous testimony that they were, in fact, going to sign off and hire more than 300 new County employees this year. And to date what are you telling us? They've hired how many actual bodies?

MR. REINHEIMER:

County wide?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

(Nodding head affirmatively)

MR. REINHEIMER:

We didn't •• we haven't monitored on a position by position basis. We're looking at the net change. And the net change in filled positions has actually gone down because the number of vacancies has increased from ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

I hope AME is listening to this testimony. They're not here today, I don't think. I don't see any representatives.

MR. REINHEIMER:

I believe in February we had a little over 700 vacancies. Now we have 739. That's the net

number. We have people that are leaving, people that are hired. So, we're looking at the net change of numbers. We're not looking specific person by person to say exactly how many new bodies came into the County. These are people also that receive pay checks. So, it doesn't include people that may be out on Worker's Comp or extended sick leave that didn't receive payment from permanent salary accounts also.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

How much was included or projected in the '05 budget for turnover savings?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Well, the •• I can't really give you an exact number on that because turnover savings is a reduction of permanent salaries. So, probably about 2 and a half, three percent was reduced from permanent salaries.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Can we quantify that in dollars, please? You're talking millions of dollars.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Absolutely. It's probably \$700 million in permanent salaries. So, in that range.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yeah. So, we're talking 2% of \$700 million, you're talking \$14 million.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Right. That's a reduction of the permanent salaries. And then over and above this currently we're projecting close to a \$19 million appropriation surplus in the General Fund alone. But, again, that does not include new hires. But it also doesn't include people leaving so ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

The problem I'm having, Lance, with you and other BRO, you know, terminology is I'm a bottom line guy. And I believe most members of the Legislature and the public understand the bottom line. What are we looking at in terms of what we can forecast as a turnover savings number for 2005? Is it 14 million? Is it one million? Is it 25 million? Because that very much

is something we are concerned about on this Committee and in the Legislature in terms of the operating budget that will be submitted in three and a half months.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Okay. Assuming the average new employee coming into the County is hired at an average wage for about \$35,000, authorizing that position to be filled today, the person's only going to be on board for half a year. So, that's \$17,000. Probably if we had hiring •• and, you know, this is off the top of my head, but, you know, if you had a significant number of people hired between now and the end of the year, we'd probably reduce surplus appropriations by about 1.5 or two million. So, we're projecting \$19 million •• and this is the General Fund •• in surplus appropriations hiring ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Or turnover savings?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Right. Okay. Hiring ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

So, right now, as of today.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Hiring several •• you know, hiring aggressively ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Let me interrupt you again. I want to make sure we have this clear. As of today based on everything we know and the absence of the Budget Office showing up for this meeting, and, you know, responding to questions that the Committee has, because I will assure you, I'll call a special meeting every day until they do show up and we get this information, you're saying as of today 19 and a half million dollars is projected in payroll turnover savings in the General Fund?

MR. REINHEIMER:

19 million.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

19 million. Okay. All right. Go to the other accounts, please.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Okay. In the other accounts, we're projecting a \$6 million surplus in the police district; \$6.6 million. That does include an allowance of about \$1.5 million for the police class, 120 people starting September 12th, I think, was the date for that. We have a surplus appropriation in fund 632 which is the nursing home. Skilled Nursing Facility. And we have 58 vacancies there. Then there's •• other funds are slight appropriations, surpluses across most of the fund •• rest of the fund's in the County.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

So, as of today the total amount of projected turnover savings for 2005 is projected at what number total?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Total is 29.6 million.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Okay.

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's across all funds.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

How would that compare with previous year's turnover savings? Actuals? Actual previous year turnover savings?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I can't comment on it. I'm not prepared to answer that.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Could you research that and send out a memo?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Sure.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

For the last five years?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's going to depend on what data that we have, if I can put that together. But I should be able to do for the past couple of years.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Well, we know from account balances, which we will have an account balance very shortly, if not already, for '04 what the numbers are.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Well, what I'd have to do is look at the same time last year and what we projected to be the appropriations surplus.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

No, no. I want the actuals for those years. For the previous years.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Actual.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

What actually materialized in turnover savings. I mean, when will we will have the actual •• when will we be closing the books officially on '04. Any day now?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. So, we will know in a few days or a week what the actual experience was for '04.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Right.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

That's what I'm talking about.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Okay. Right. So, you would want a comparison of the actual permanent salaries to what was actually budgeted.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yeah. Because I believe this number's going to be higher. And that puts us in pretty good shape going into an operating budget. I'm just trying to, you know, for the benefit of everybody that's trying maybe to follow along here give some context when we take up other issues on today's agenda as well as take up the operating budget in a few months. Okay. Questions for Mister •• yes. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'm not sure where we're going with this. I mean, this is a very informative memo. I wish we had it earlier, that we could have studied it a little bit before we came into this meeting. But the purpose of the memo is to rectify the difference between the proposed or the projected deficit? There's a difference between what Budget Review is projecting as a deficit and the County Executive's Budget Office. It's like \$20 million; right? And is this exercise to narrow that down where the difference is?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

I think that's one of the purposes it ultimately serves because unless •• and please comment, Lance •• as we meet today, the last figures we •• this Committee and the Legislature were advised as to a potential '06 budgetary deficit was about •• your numbers were in the area of the mid••twenties. The Executive's numbers were in the area of mid••forties.

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. Let me ask Mr. Zwirn again if anyone from the Budget Office is coming today. Otherwise I will advise the Committee now that we'll have a special committee tomorrow and the next day and every day until they show up.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Mr. Chairman, I didn't relinquish. When did we invite the Budget Office?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

They're invited. And they've been told from the beginning of the year ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

So, they didn't get a special invitation to come to this meeting?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

No, that's a standard ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

•• requirement that they attend this meeting. This is the Budget Committee of the Suffolk County government. And they're supposed to be here.

MR. REINHEIMER:

If I could respond to Legislator Lindsay.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

They have a large enough staff to certainly send somebody with knowledge of the budget. You're certainly get paid enough to know what's going on. Go ahead, Lance.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Okay. This is just one component in the budget model. So, this is •• permanent salaries is one

component. The difference between our projections and the County Executive obviously would wrap through their budget model and our budget model. Our budget model probably is looking at about a \$16 million surplus in the General Fund. Even though now we're at 19 million, you know, in terms of the overall county, that's not a material change to materially impact our budget. Because we know the County Executive is looking to hire some people, we feel that that's probably in the neighborhood of 1.5 to two million, which will bring it down to about a \$16 million, \$17 million surplus •• appropriation surplus in the '05. Currently. This is current projections.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Surplus. Not deficit?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Surplus appropriations in the General Fund. Our budget model is based on about \$16 million. So, built into there is the assumption that they will be hiring people. We looked at the patterns of vacancies between •• which is •• there's a chart in this memo between last year and this year. We overlaid the vacancies •• numbers of vacancies in the same period of time. Those lines are almost identical. It looks like that the way things are looking this year, based on what the County Executive is saying, they're looking to hire some people. We expect by August that the number of people on the payroll will start to increase. You give departments the authorization to fill positions. By the time they go through the civil service process, interview people, get people certified on the list and the body actually walks through the door can take a couple of months. So, the authorization, if the authorization's given in April, it's June or July 1st before people actually start walking through the door.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Mr. Chairman, if I may, just to follow on this point.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Yes, go right ahead.

LEG. LINDSAY:

So, 15, \$16 million surplus in '05 you're projecting.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Surplus appropriations in the General Fund for permanent salaries.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. And that is all included in the mix when you are saying mid•twenty deficit in '06?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct. In '05. Well, right, '06.

LEG. LINDSAY:

'06.

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Lance, looking at the charts relating to filled police officer positions, it appear that around the first of the year, just prior to the first of the year, maybe the first or second payroll in December, we had 1732 police officers in Suffolk County. And as of, I guess, the last payroll period we have 1647.

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. In terms of normal attrition, you know, due to retirements and the like, is that a typical trend line that we're looking at?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yeah, that's pretty typical the past couple of years. Generally you have somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 police officers retiring •• or I should say sworn personnel retiring beginning of the year. And then in July you have another 50. So, we have about 100 sworn personnel

that are leaving. Then what happens is as SOA positions, detective positions become available through retirements, police officers are promoted into those positions. Those positions are pretty much filled. I think there's ten positions that are vacant in the General Fund. But other than that, the SOA and the detectives are filled at their authorized number. So, that the number of police officers has been decreasing. So, it's not only police officers that are retiring, but it's a result of police officers being promoted into the SOA and detectives.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Now, going back to January of '04, there's actually been a decline of 149 police officers in Suffolk County.

LEG. ALDEN:

'05, no?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

No, '04.

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, that's since January '04.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

'04, 149. 85 this year; since January of this year. And 149 since January of last year. Now, the recruit class has been postponed to the fall. And it's going to be a larger class as opposed to two smaller classes of fifty, which has a positive budgetary impact for the County; but at the same time it requires us to go through the summer peak months with fewer police officers, peak vacation periods, and probably a significant increase in police overtime.

How much is budgeted in '05 for police overtime? And where are we today as we look at those numbers?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Okay. I have to look that up. Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Because these are again factors that could negatively impact County finances as we go through

the year. All right. What we'll do, unless other members of the committee have other questions on this document is we'll give the Committee an opportunity to maybe digest it further and then take it up at our next Committee meeting.

Legislator Carpenter, do you have a question?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Actually, no. I just, since Jim has joined us, I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate the Budget Review Office for their participation with the rating agencies. Perhaps •• I don't know if everyone is aware of the fact that we got the upgrade from Moody's. And I'm not sure what has happened with the other two. Jim, did you get any information on that? I wasn't available yesterday.

MR. SPERO:

S & T and Moody's; both.

LEG. CARPENTER:

So, both. So, we're just waiting to hear from Fitch's, which usually is the easier of the three. And Budget Review was very much a part of that whole process. So, I want to congratulate them for all their efforts.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Jim, along those lines, I recall the newspaper report that first reported that. And both your office and the Budget Office were queried as to how much does it actually result in savings in terms of the interest factor. Have we quantified that yet?

MR. SPERO:

I asked Rich Tortora what it might be in terms of interest rates. And maybe you can get maybe like 15 or 20 basis points, which is like two tenths of 1% on your interest rate; something like that.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Is that on new borrowings?

MR. SPERO:

That's right.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

So, don't pertain to all the ••

MR. SPERO:

No. Those interest rates •• those interest rates are fixed for the life of those bond issues.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

So, if you had to give a guesstimate of what we annually go out and borrow and do the numbers, what are we looking at?

MR. SPERO:

Well, if you give me a few minutes I can try to figure something out.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yeah. And bring it back before the end of the Committee meeting. We're going to go to today's agenda. No cards. You have a statement, Jim?

MR. SPERO:

Something we need to be aware of for the capital budget process. I just got a memo this morning from the •• copy of a memo from the State Commission of Corrections. The memo basically requires the County to build a 680 bed facility. And this is the important part. With the core for phase II. That's the •• the County Executive's proposed budget reduced the cost of the jail \$25.8 million in anticipation that they would not have to build the core for phase II. So, with this requirement, the budget has to be increased, you know, \$25.8 million based on the consultant's estimated construction costs to accommodate the phase II.

I assume the County can build •• the County is planning to build 720 cells to accommodate the DWI component. So, I presume that if you exceed the 680, you'd still meet Commissioner of Correction requirements because you've exceeded their minimum. Bid documents •• bid ready documents have to be ready by the fall of '05. And all appropriations have to be in the can, so to speak, for construction by February 1st of '06. I just saw this this morning.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Thanks for that good news, Jim.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah, we love you, too.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. Tabled resolutions. First is **2219 (a Charter Law to provide for fair and equitable distribution of public safety sales and compensating use tax revenues)**. Oh, pardon me, I'm sorry. Yes, Public Hearing. I'm going to make a motion •• is anyone here to speak on 2219? Hearing none, I'll make a motion to table **2219**, second by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. ALDEN:

Point of order?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

We're going to close the hearing, actually. Yeah, I'll make a motion to close the hearing. Yes, point of order.

LEG. ALDEN:

We just should ascertain from the Clerk's Office if the publications were done properly and if they got documentations to that effect?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Sure. Madam Clerk?

MS. JULIUS:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, the publications are in proper order and were duly filed.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. We have a motion to close, second by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions. Okay. Public hearing's closed on 2219. **(Public hearing closed. VOTE: 7•0)**

I'll make a motion to **table 2219**, second by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Carried. **(Tabled. Vote: 7•0)**

1101, (amending the 2005 Operating Budget and transferring funds for the purchase of an Echo Doppler Machine for John T. Mather Memorial Hospital). Is there a motion?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to approve.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Motion by Legislator Losquadro to approve, second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? On the motion, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, could we just have ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

An explanation?

LEG. ALDEN:

An explanation; but how much and also why we're buying an Echo Doppler machine for •• this is a not•for•profit hospital. Right?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

I believe so. I believe Mather is not•for•profit. Does anyone know for certain? Does anyone have an explanation?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah, I can offer.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Mather Hospital obviously services a very wide portion of the community. An Echo Doppler machine will allow them to become an accredited stroke center. And this is something that both Legislator Vilorio and I would very much like to see happen. It would service a good portion of the eastern portion of Suffolk County, especially the north shore and would be a tremendous asset to that community and surrounding areas.

LEG. ALDEN:

I have a couple other questions. What's the offset? I don't know if Budget Review ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Marine Helicopter Squadron.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. And just as a suggestion, though, in the past when we've done things like this with either Southside or other institutions of this nature, Suffolk County's gotten something. For instance, at Stony Brook University Hospital, we've gotten some cancer diagnostic equipment a number of years ago. And they had to actually serve the community so we were able to send people there that weren't charged because we're the ones that bought the equipment. So, is that part of this resolution? Is that part of the intent that Suffolk County will have the benefit because •• otherwise if we're giving them a piece of equipment that they're going to charge our residents to go and use, I'm not so sure I see the logic in that.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

You're talking about some type of in-kind service?

LEG. ALDEN:

Or just a reduced fee to, you know, some of our clients from some of the health facilities, things of that nature.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes, if I may, I see the public benefit as one of serving the public health. Strokes are an extreme public health risk and there is not a facility within that area that can adequately service the public much in the same way that you want to see the proper technology, the best technology installed in facilities to best protect public health. This would do much the same. It is a relatively small amount of money. And, therefore, it was not taken into consideration for an in-kind service to the County; the only public service being protecting the public health.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Do we know how much this equipment costs?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

\$15,000.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

That's a total cost?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, I just had some questions. I'm sure it's a worthy cause. I'm just wondering why this wasn't put in the regular budget when we had the opportunity to put in some member items. And the other thing is, I'm also more importantly wondering, there are a lot of organizations in Suffolk County that can use an additional \$15,000 dollars in funding for various purposes. Is the hospital in a position where they can't afford to buy the machine?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

If I may through the Chair.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes. They are in a position where they cannot afford to purchase this machine. As many hospitals are, they are barely getting by with their budget. This is something that they cannot afford to purchase, but would make them an accredited stroke center. And as further reasons that I stated earlier, I think it would be a tremendous asset to the entire community. I wish Legislator Vilorio•Fisher was here. She speaks very passionately about this also.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Counsel, would the adoption of this resolution be breaking any new ground in terms of providing financial assistance to a for•profit corporation?

MS. KNAPP:

I don't believe this is a for•profit. I believe the only for•profit Hospital in Suffolk County now is Brunswick Hospital.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Really?

MS. KNAPP:

I believe so.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

The one that went bankrupt.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Mather is part of the Catholic health systems so it is not•for•profit. It is a not•for•profit.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. All right. Very good. Okay. We cleared that up. We a motion, second. All in favor. Opposed? Carries unanimously. **(Approved. Vote: 7•0)**

1120, (amending the 2005 Operating Budget and creating 44 positions in the Department of Social Services and transferring funds to fill the positions effective July

1, 2005), I'll make the motion to approve, second by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

On the motion, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

This is creating 44 new positions.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

(Nodding head affirmatively)

LEG. ALDEN:

How does that •• well, I asked the same question last time and I didn't get an answer. How does that overlap with the positions there are already in the budget? We have 700 and •• as you elicited from testimony earlier, 700 and some odd vacant approved positions that are budgeted. Do any of them overlap with this?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Who would like to take that question? Budget Review?

LEG. ALDEN:

And I find it a little odd that, you know, here we are creating another 44 positions when we have over 700 vacant approved positions.

LEG. LINDSAY:

If I might, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Well, let's get an answer to the question.

MR. ZWIRN:

If I might, Mr. Chair.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Same question. I got the same question. Just twisted a little different.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

All right. You want to clarify your point of view on this?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah. I just don't understand. We just had this extensive report on the amount of vacant positions. If we add more positions to the budget, unless they're going to be filled, you're just tying up more and more money.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Well, you're not tying up a dime until the positions are filled. That's the very point on that presentation.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I know, but the money isn't usable, then, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Well, it's usable until it's all, you know, appropriated and actually •• you actually hire the individuals.

LEG. LINDSAY:

What you're doing is creating a second reserve fund within the budget.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

So, you have a concern about establishing reserve funds that can be used to offset a potential property tax increase in '05? Okay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I didn't say that.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

The Deputy County Executive is nodding his head affirmatively. Yeah, we don't want to go there.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, I'm just saying, what Legislator Lindsay says is hypothetically true. But to answer Legislator Alden's inquiry, there have been 69 SCIN forms signed in Social Services as of late. And they're all Civil Service positions. 18 have been filled. And the balance of 51 are presently in the process of being filled. So, there will be another 69 positions filled in Social Services in the very newer future.

LEG. ALDEN:

Ben, do you know if any of them are the same as what this attempts to create, these 44 positions?

MR. ZWIRN:

That I don't know. I don't know if they overlap. I'll check on that for you. But as I say 18 have come on board. None of them are non•competitive. They're all Civil Service positions.

LEG. ALDEN:

And my last questing is what's the offset?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Let's see. Creates 44 positions to reduce backlogs. That costs money. And that implies •• affects client services. Provide services in a timely fashion and meet federal and state mandates, transfers \$1,100,000 from the Capital Fund to the General Fund. Is that accurate?

MR. SPERO:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

So, basically what this does ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Pay•As•You•Go. Pay•As•You•Go account. Money that's set aside for purposes like this and others.

LEG. ALDEN:

So, this will add next year's budget. Because once you hire the people, you can't fire them or anything like that. So, this will add millions to next year's budget, which could possibly translate into a tax increase while we maintain 700 and some odd vacant positions. All right.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. Jim?

MR. SPERO:

Something to note. As far as the DSS positions, I think they got 52, was it? 52 total SCIN approvals?

MR. ZWIRN:

No. Total was 69.

MR. SPERO:

Okay. Well, we have a list with 52. Okay, but let's just talk about 52 for now.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Well, if we had the Budget Office here, Jim, we could get some clarification.

MR. SPERO:

Okay. Well, the point I want to make is of the 52 that we got the listing from DSS on, that results in 21 new hires.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

21.

MR. SPERO:

21 new hires.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Not 52.

MR. SPERO:

Right.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Again, these are the numbers game. Okay. Try to confuse everybody. But the bottom line is 21, not 52. So, a motion and a second? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. ZWIRN:

Mr. Chair, if I just might add ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Hold on. I'm in the middle of a vote.

LEG. ALDEN:

Abstain.

MR. ZWIRN:

I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. We have one abstention. Two opposed, Montano and Lindsay. Abstain, Alden. Go ahead Mr. Zwirn. **(Approved. Vote: 4•2•1•0) Legislators Montano and Lindsay opposed. Legislator Alden abstained.)**

MR. ZWIRN:

The only thing I was going to raise is we talked a little bit about the expense side with positions being vacant and turnover savings. The other side of the equation is revenues. And I know •• I believe the first sales tax revenues have come in for the first quarter of the year. And from what I understand, it's not an optimistic outlook.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

What are the numbers?

MR. SPERO:

I came into the meeting late, but I was going to mention, as Ben points out, the first quarter was •• sales tax collections were weak. And in spite of the high energy costs ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Just the numbers, Jim.

MR. SPERO:

Okay. Here come the numbers. If we achieve our budgeted rate of growth for the remainder of 2005 ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

What were the numbers for the first quarter; projected and actual?

MR. SPERO:

Okay. That I don't have. I'm talking percentages.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Well, he's made a statement. I want to know if there's validity to the statement.

MR. SPERO:

\$4.1 million below what we were for the first quarter of last year.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Okay. And were we ahead last year's projections?

MR. SPERO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Thank you. So, what does that •• what does that statement really mean?

MR. SPERO:

We're below •• we're below what we••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

You're above projections a year ago.

MR. SPERO:

No. We're below last year's projections.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

I'm sorry. You're below projections a year ago that were up from what you projected a year ago. It has no relevance.

LEG. BISHOP:

Mr. Chairman?

MR. SPERO:

No. The bottom line is what did we budget? And what we've taken in is below what we budgeted.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

And as we know, Jim, there are adjustments all the time that ••

MR. SPERO:

That's right. There were negative adjustments in the first quarter. Just let me get the data out.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Just give us the numbers. That's all we really need.

MR. SPERO:

If we achieve the budgeted rate of growth the remainder of this year, we're \$9.8 million short in sales tax across all funds. Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

If.

MR. SPERO:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

How many times have I heard projections by the BRO office that never materialized?

MR. SPERO:

To achieve the budgeted rate of growth for this year, the growth rate has to be 5.91% for the remainder of this year.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. Legislator •• who had a question? Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

Listen, I think I'm one of the few people who ever dares to criticize BRO. But one thing they're very accurate with is this type of data. And what they're telling you is that last year in the first quarter, we had X amount. This year we have less than X. And, in fact, we had budgeted for X plus in the first quarter of this year. So, we're really trending in a very negative way if this continues throughout the year. You're going to be 20 or \$30 million in the hole, I would think, if that continues.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Well, nine million he said. If we continue to trend in this direction, he said nine million. We also heard testimony a few minutes ago from Lance that turnover savings will be, you know, close to \$20 million to the good. So, all of these numbers are influx. They're in play.

LEG. BISHOP:

That is true.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

They change. And we shouldn't, you know, take them too seriously. We shouldn't ignore them, but we can't take them too seriously.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, that I would agree with you. I just think •• it's dangerous if you're tending below your sale tax estimates to continue to spend ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. Well, maybe we should reduce the sales tax to generate economic growth ••

LEG. BISHOP:

•• aggressively.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

You know, encourage people to spend more. Okay. Moving right along. Yes, you have a question, Legislator Alden?

LEG. ALDEN:

What does that mean, though?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

What does what mean?

LEG. ALDEN:

Your last statement.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

It doesn't mean anything more than what I said. Okay. There's sales tax. That's what I said.

LEG. ALDEN:

Because ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

You have a resolution that's coming up on the agenda. You have two resolutions to reduce

sales tax on home heating oil.

LEG. ALDEN:

Right.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

That's one way you can generate economic positive growth.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, actually if we were discussing that, then, let's •• that's nice to discuss that. Because if you repeal or reduce an energy tax on people's homes, you don't think that that's going to make it a little more affordable and make it so that people can live in their homes? Because I've heard a lot of talk around here that we want to do affordable housing and we want to do this, we want to do that. And yet we'll tax people on the basic necessity of life. That's what we do. So, if that's what your statement is, Mike, then we'll take that up in a few minutes, I guess.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. That brings us back to 1120. We had a vote. It carried. Four in favor, one abstention, two opposed.

That brings us to **1125, (amending the 2005 Operating Budget to transfer funds from the Suffolk County Water Protection Fund (477) Reserve Fund to the Town of Southamptton for "Restoration of Hard Clam populations in Quantuck Bay)**. Do we have a motion?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to approve.

MS. BIZZARRO:

I'd like to make a comment on this?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Absolutely.

MS. BIZZARRO:

Thank you. I just wanted to apprise the Committee and I already spoke with the sponsor on this bill. I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

No, I just want to acknowledge you did also notify my office yesterday ••

MS. BIZZARRO:

Yes, they did.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

•• that you wanted to speak on this. My apologies for not recognizing you immediately.

MS. BIZZARRO:

That's all right. Thank you. I just wanted to apprise the Committee, as I said, that under current County Drinking Water Program, the transfer of monies from the fund 477 to towns is not authorized. As I said, I had already alerted the sponsor, Legislator Schneiderman, to that fact. And there had been the County Attorney opinion to that fact that had been written approximately a year ago. So, I sent Legislator Schneiderman that opinion as well.

Basically although the original Drinking Water Program required that payments be made to the ten county towns, the program has since been modified and has omitted funding for the towns. I know there was an amendment that came in just yesterday or the day before, but I don't see that it changes the substance of the resolution so that's the problem.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. I'll have Legislative Counsel respond.

MS. KNAPP:

This is one that the County Attorney's Office and I disagree on strongly. The opinion from last year relied on the fact that the 1996 program included funding for the towns. And the 1999 program did not include the same kind of funding; thereby drawing the inference that the 1999 program didn't allow for transferring 477 funds to the town. I think that's inaccurate. My recollection of the 1996 program was that the funding provided under 12•5•G was often not timely expended. And the Legislators decided rather than directly funding the towns, that

they'd prefer to control the funding themselves thereby changing the '99 program.

And I would point out there were two 477 resolutions last year that would seem to fly in the face. One was one where we funded Cornell Cooperative and Southampton College to seed clams in bay bottoms that are owned by the town trustees. And another one was to fund a program to promote the removal of underground fuel tanks. And those are on private property, private individuals. So, that, you know, I'm confused by the opinion. And we're always authorized to fund the towns under General Municipal Law 119•O that allows us to enter into municipals. So, I disagree.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Okay. I make a motion to approve, second by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Carried unanimously.

We have before us **1140 (repealing the Unfair Home Heating Fuel Nuisance Tax on Suffolk County Homeowners)** Mr. Alden, what's your pleasure?

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

You're making a motion to approve? I'll second it.

MS. BIZZARRO:

I'd like to also make a comment on this resolution as well.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Yes.

MS. BIZZARRO:

Sorry, Legislator Alden. Just a small comment that under the New York State Tax Law Section 1210 that the rate that is in this resolution, I think, it establishes the rate at one and three quarters percent is not authorized by that. The rate just needs to be changed. It needs to be either one, one and a half, two, two and a half or three the way it states in the law.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you for that information.

MS. BIZZARRO:

You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Counsel. On that comment by the County Attorney, would you concur with that opinion?

MS. KNAPP:

Yes, I do agree.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

So, the bill in its current form would be technically defective and would require an amendment either up or down.

MS. BIZZARRO:

Right.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

I don't know if it's defective, but I think as a starting point, this is something that really we as Legislators need to decide what direction we want to go in. And, you know, as I stated before, we've had some debate about affordable housing and how much money we want to allocate in our budgets to affordable housing. And this is one way •• and maybe I'm the only one that feels this way •• but this is one way, I think, of making housing affordable in Suffolk County for people; for all people across all lines. So, if you want to table it, we'll table it because of that information. But I think this debate and this concept really has to be looked at. So, I'll change my motion to a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

I'll second.

LEG. ALDEN:

And we'll change the rate.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Before we move on, can I just comment?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Absolutely, Bill, go ahead.

LEG. LINDSAY:

You know, we have two competing bills on the energy tax. And at this point in time, I disagree with both of them. And why I say that is because we're talking about modifying the tax rate for 2006. We're just starting the second quarter of '05. The only ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

If I can just interrupt you, Bill. It's '07, not '06. So, there's plenty of time to take these resolutions up.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. The thing that I thought that this is something that should be addressed when we address the operating budget in October to see where we are. And if we have the money, I think, that's the first area we should go rather than cut the general tax anymore is to address the energy tax. I couldn't agree with you more. I just think it's a little premature at this point.

LEG. ALDEN:

Mr. Chairman, may I respond?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

With all due respect, Bill.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Not directly. Through the Chair, as Legislator Foley would say.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, right. With all due respect, I think, number one, you're right. It should be done at budget time. And then that's a good time to take this up. And I'm not so sure it should be a criteria that we can afford it or not. I think that this is something that we have to explore. Does this Legislature want to move in that direction to try to make this something that we give to our constituents to make it more affordable or do we want to go in a different direction? Do we want to put more money for bricks and mortar to build affordable housing or do we want to do a combination of programs?

So, I think that it's something that really we should start talking about now because a lot of times it just runs on and on. And even our energy, we still have backup generators that use diesel in the County. When we have alternative energy sources, we could have actually built or considered it almost as a small city out there in Yaphank because of the complex. And we could have built our own generator generating plant or facility that didn't use conventional diesel or some type of coal. So, you know, there's things that I think we should be looking at. And they're long term problems that need long term solutions, but it looks like it's going to need, you know, a little bit of consensus on the part of Legislators. So, I think it's something that we have to start talking about now.

LEG. LINDSAY:

If I could just respond, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

On the resolution.

LEG. LINDSAY:

On the resolution.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Go ahead.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I do not disagree with Legislator Alden in terms of •• the debate should go on about this issue. My simple point is, when we get to October, you know, we've just had an extensive report about unfilled positions and, you know, who's right as far as projected deficits going into next year, I would not want to cut the fuel tax and increase the real estate tax. You know, I think that's just a cruel joke on the voters. I want it to be a true tax cut that we can, you know, identify if we have the money, that's what I would like to do. And I would support Legislator Alden's resolution providing that we, you know, we can justify the numbers.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Okay. So, we have a motion to table, second, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's tabled. (Vote: 7•0)**

We have before us 1174 (amending the 2005 Operating Budget and transferring funds from the General Capital Reserve Fund to appropriate funds for the Community College Tuition Assistance Program for volunteer ambulance workers) and the Chair will recognize the legislator sponsor, Mr. Bishop, who has, I'm sure, joined us today for this very purpose. Go ahead, Dave.

LEG. BISHOP:

Good morning. I have found in recent weeks that working with my colleague Legislator Carpenter can be a lot more rewarding than working against her. So, this is another example of working with her in that she established a resolution last year that I think many of us co •sponsored •• review the record •• Community College Tuition Assistance Program, which is an excellent idea. As you know, our volunteer EMS system suffers from a lack of volunteers. We really need a lot more. One of the enhancements or inducements that we could create is a scholarship program in Suffolk Community College. We did that but it was under•utilized. And this bill is an effort to correct the problems that have occurred with that.

Now, my Aid, Glenn Pichardo, has worked very hard on this bill. And he's given you a memorandum that all of you have before you that lays out the issues. If you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer it; but essentially what this bill will do is put money into the

program that will be used to advertise it and to maintain the program on its intended basis, which is at least 13 scholarships. And we need to do this at this time if we want to have the program up and running for the fall because •• well, I guess •• when would this Committee meet again?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Two weeks.

LEG. BISHOP:

Oh, two weeks. So, you don't need to do that now. It's filed in time; right? It's not the quarter window. Sorry. Right. But we need to do it obviously in the next few weeks if you want to have it for the fall semester.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Do want to move it now?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes, I'd like to. That's why I'm here.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, I just have one question, Dave. Just so I understand this, this provides scholarships for people that are •• excuse me?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

This is not scholarship money. This is money for marketing and advertising.

LEG. MONTANO:

25,000 is for advertisement. And 25,000 goes into a scholarship fund.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's a two-year scholarship?

LEG. BISHOP:

Right. Except they have to •• you have to renew it every year. And what happened was in the previous years the money was flowing back to fund balance and people were not getting the full commitment that was intended.

LEG. MONTANO:

And I understand from your memo that they were also the •• FRES was also allocating the full scholarship. So, they weren't spending exactly what they got? They were reserving some money; is that correct?

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

LEG. MONTANO:

And the reserve went back into the General Fund. Now, the question I had is, though, with respect to the volunteers, if someone becomes a volunteer, do they have to wait a certain number of •• certain minimum time before they can apply for the scholarship or can they do it together? Can they apply as a volunteer fireman and apply for a scholarship at the same time?

LEG. BISHOP:

I'll defer to somebody who knows the answer.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I'll respond to that.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

The program was meant to encourage and recruit new volunteers. So, anyone who is an existing volunteer, even if it were just for a month, would not be eligible. So, they would apply for the program; and then they actually enter into a contract where they agree to volunteer for five years.

LEG. MONTANO:

It's a five•year volunteer ••

LEG. CARPENTER:

It's a five•year commitment.

LEG. MONTANO:

That's the second question I had.

LEG. CARPENTER:

If they don't maintain the equipment, then, the monies that they have been, you know, given or the fees that have been given in the scholarship would have to be paid back. That's what they're committing to.

LEG. BISHOP:

Now, I just want to call your attention, I guess, to the critical thing which is •• critical point. On the memo's first page where it says 2004 and 2005, you see the star or the asterisk; and it shows that potential applicants were turned away from the program because of a lack of funds. So, obviously there is a demand for this program. And if we create the supply of resources, we will increase the number of EMS volunteers in the County.

LEG. CARPENTER:

If I could, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Legislator Bishop and •• I, through the Chair, just address my comments to David. I only saw this last night the amended copy and the memo. And I did have some concern. You're showing the trend of increase because in 2003 was when the program was first adopted. They had to develop the process for how they were going to implement the program. So, that took a little bit of time getting off the ground. But it's obvious as time has gone on that we are increasing applicants. And that's a good thing. I would almost say that as the program develops through word of mouth that we almost don't need to spend the dollars advertising it. I'd almost rather see it go into more recruits.

And the other question I had in the Second Resolve Clause, you refer to funding the program for volunteer ambulance workers. It is firefighters/EMS workers. It's not just ambulance. So, I think that has to be changed. It's also in the Whereas clause where you're talking about ambulance workers only. It's firefighters and/or ambulance because some are separate.

LEG. BISHOP:

I would submit, however, that our crisis in the County is with ambulance; not with volunteer firemen. We don't lack for volunteer firemen.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah, but now you're changing the program because the way the original bill was written, it was for firefighters and/or. And most of the departments have, you know, the EMS within the department. But there are some separate EMS companies. And that was why they were specifically cited.

LEG. BISHOP:

If you want to table it and we'll work on it over the next two weeks.

LEG. MONTANO:

Before you table it, I have a question.

LEG. BISHOP:

What we need to do is recruit more ambulances. That's the real priority. So, whatever we can devise together to do that is what I intend to do.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Legislator O'Leary.

LEG. MONTANO:

I have some questions. I still have the floor, I think. I have the floor still. Mike, I was still on the floor when Angie jumped in. Okay, Peter, I'll save my questions.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I just have a question to the sponsor. This isn't a tuition reimbursement program, is it?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

No. It's a scholarship program.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Scholarship.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Scholarship program.

LEG. O'LEARY:

So, is there is a minimum grade requirement?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

To maintain the scholarship?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Is there a minimum grade requirement in the resolution?

LEG. BISHOP:

I don't know. I assume you have to pass.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, that's my point. Are we going to pay up front? And if they fail, we're still going to pay?

LEG. BISHOP:

It's a 2.0.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Oh, there is a minimum grade?

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. 2.0. That's a C, isn't it.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right. That's a C. A gentlemen's C.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Dave, with respect to •• Legislator Bishop, with respect to the applicants, you say there were 12 applicants in 2004. Are they spread out through different geographic areas, different villages or fire districts or •• do you know how they're concentrated?

LEG. BISHOP:

I don't know how they're concentrated.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Motion to table, second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Unanimous. **Tabled. (Vote: 7•0)**

Okay, 1174, is there a motion? I'm sorry, 1314 **(adopting a fiscally responsible, prudent and affordable energy tax reduction plan)**, is there a motion?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled. (Vote: 7•0)**

1399, motion by the Chair, second by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? You have a question?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Yes, go right ahead. Legislator Lindsay, you have the floor.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'm just trying to understand this concept. We're petitioning the State Legislature to extend the sales tax from 13 ••

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

We're on 1399.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were on the Home Rule message.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

No, no, no. I'm on 1399. Oh, I apologize. I'm sorry. I'm very sorry. Okay. There you go. Go ahead, go ahead, go ahead. You have the floor.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, is the Home Rule Message before us? It it isn't before us?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

The Home Rule Tabled Resolution, yes. Yes, **HR•01 (HRM requesting New York State Legislature to extend the one quarter cent sales tax program to allow Suffolk County to continue to collect an additional sales tax until December 31, 2005)** is before us.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. HR•01.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

This is going to be tabled today by me. Okay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I second the motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Okay. Second by Legislator Losquadro to table **HR•01**.

We are now on Introductory Resolutions.

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? On HR•01. Unanimous. Yes, to table. Yes, Losquadro seconded it. **(Tabled. Vote: 7•0)**

1399 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge•backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature • Control #733•2005)

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to approve.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:

Second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

(Approved. Vote: 7•0)

Same motion, same second on 1400 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge•backs on correction or errors/County Treasurer by; County Legislature • #210) All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Same vote. **(Approved. Vote: 7•0)**

1401 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge•backs on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature #211), same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved. Vote: 7•0)**

1405 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge•backs on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature #212), same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved. Vote: 7•0)**

1406 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge•backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature #734•2005), same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved. Vote: 7•0)**

1407 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge•backs on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature #213), same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved. Vote: 7•0)**

1408 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge•backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature Control #735•2005), same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved. Vote: 7•0)**

1409 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge•backs on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature #214), same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved. Vote: 7•0)**

1416 (to readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge •backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature • Control #736•2005), same motion, same second, same vote. (Approved. Vote: 7•0)

LEG. ALDEN:

Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

If it's appropriate through the Chair, I'd make a motion to take 1399 through 1416 and place them on the consent calendar.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Counsel, that's appropriate? We have a motion, a second by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor? Opposed? Those resolutions will appear on the consent calendar. **(IR 1399 through 1416 placed on consent calendar. Vote: 7•0)**

We have no Sense resolutions. We know have before us HR•02. Is there a motion?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Motion by Legislator O'Leary. Is there a second? I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. MONTANO:

To table?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

To table.

LEG. LINDSAY:

No, I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

We have a motion that take precedence. Motion to table. So, we have •• all in favor?

LEG. ALDEN:

My motion?

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Yes, your motion. And those opposed? Montano. Lindsay opposed?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:

Okay. Very good. It's approved to be tabled. **(Tabled. Vote: 5•2. Legislators Montano and Lindsay opposed)**

That concludes the official agenda. We do not have the Budget Office here. So, the Chair will consult with the members of the Committee to ascertain their calendars in the next few days so we can call a special meeting and get a presentation by the Budget Office. I'd like to thank them in advance for their lack of cooperation and look forward to their future cooperation.

(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 11:04 AM)